

Appl. No. 10/621,480
Response dated September 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2006

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-20 are pending and stand rejected on varying grounds under §103(a).

Independent claims 1, 8, and 16 have been amended to further clarify the invention by including one or more features of the original dependent claims. Dependent claims 2, 9, 17, and 18 have also been accordingly amended.

In view of the comments below, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application including claims 1-20 and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

a) Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Eichstaedt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,958) in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No 6,331,965).

Claims 1, 8, and 16 are independent claims. These claims define in varying scope apparatus and methods directed to alerting a user of an incoming call on a separate wireless communication device. Generally the claims include a coupler for coupling an accessory unit to a wristwatch, a wireless circuit arranged to receive information from the wireless device, and an alerting device that further comprises a display that is separate from the wristwatch (see FIG. 1, 4 display 102) where the alerting device is operable to signal the user when a call is received by the communication device. Note that claim 16 defines in varying scope a method corresponding to the functionality of the apparatus claims.

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Applicant's invention advantageously does not require that a wristwatch with an integral alerting device, e.g., as suggested by Eichstaedt et al, or a wristwatch arranged to interface to an intervening device to supply displayed information, e.g., as suggested by Sato et al, be procured in order to enjoy the remote or extended alerting features nor does Applicant's invention force a user to forego the benefits of a favorite wristwatch. The claimed accessory unit is simply coupled to a user's present wristwatch.

Eichstaedt et al. discusses a wristwatch with an integral tactile device that is used to notify the wearer of the wristwatch, via a tactile notification (pinching in FIG. 5 and rotation of a raised surface in FIG. 4), when a wireless signal is received where the signal indicates a call is being received on a cellular handset, etc. (abstract, etc.). While Eichstaedt et al appears to show or suggest a scheme for alerting a user with a properly configured notification device (wristwatch) of an incoming call on a separate cell phone, this reference does not show or suggest the claimed apparatus or method of alerting a user of such an incoming call. For example, the Examiner concedes that Eichstaedt et al. does not show or suggest the claimed coupler (see further discussion in April 17, 2006 response). Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Eichstaedt et al does not show or suggest the alerting device including a display that is separate from the wristwatch all as claimed.

Sato et al. discusses and describes various embodiments of a wristwatch 10 and intervening member 14 where the intervening member in some embodiments can be construed as an alerting device (see FIG. 1, 2A, 2B and corresponding discussion col. 4, lines 1-52 and FIG.

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4A – vibrator 37). However, the alerting device (intervening member 14) of Sato et al. does not include a display that is separate from the wristwatch as recited in the amended claims. In Sato et al, the intervening member can use an LCD display 322 that is an integral part of the wristwatch. A CPU 21 in the intervening device is coupled to a CPU 124 in the wristwatch where these CPUs are connected via terminals 141 (341) and 123 (323) (see FIG. 4A, 4B and corresponding discussion col. 5, line 29 – col. 6, line 30). Applicant further respectfully submits that none of the other embodiments of the Sato et al intervening device that can be construed as alerting devices include a display that is separate from the wristwatch.

From the above discussions it is clear that Eichstaedt et al. and Sato et al. taken alone or together do not show all features of any one of claims 1, 8, or 16, specifically the alerting device including a display that is separate from the wristwatch or, at least by virtue of dependency, dependent claims 2-7, 9-15, or 17-20. Furthermore and additionally these references do not show or suggest the more detailed features of the display as deployed in dependent claim 2, 9, 17, or 20.

Therefore and at least in view of these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Eichstaedt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,958) in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No 6,331,965).

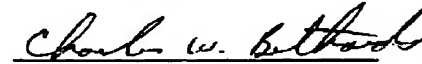
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, clearly and patentably distinguish over the cited references of record and as such are to be deemed allowable.

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Such allowance is hereby earnestly and respectfully solicited at an early date. If the Examiner has any suggestions or comments or questions, calls are welcomed at the phone number below.

Although it is not anticipated that any fees are due or payable as this response is being timely filed within the allowed 3 month time period (1st business day after Saturday, September 2, 2006) and no other fees appear to be due or payable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3435.

Respectfully submitted,



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